



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting

April 8, 2026, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Roanoke Higher Education Center

108 N Jefferson St. Roanoke, VA 24016; 701A

[Virtual Link](#)

I.	Opening (1:00-1:05)	Chairman Denham
II.	Financial Report (1:05-1:15)	Alyssa McKenney
III.	Project Reports (1:15-1:35) a. Proposal Updates b. Stoplight Report	Emmalee Wagner
IV.	Project VITAL Update (1:35-1:50)	Erin Burcham
V.	Project Proposals (1:50-2:05) a. Sweet Briar College Thermal Engineering Program Expansion	Jemma Sabokrouh
VI.	Regional Council Committee Update (2:05-2:15)	Justin Yalung
VII.	Program Updates (2:15-2:25)	Jemma Sabokrouh
VIII.	Council Business (2:25-2:55) a. January 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes b. Terms & Vacancies c. Council Feedback Review	Chairman Denham
IX.	Closing a. Adjournment	Chairman Denham

Next Council Meeting: August 5, 2026 (Virtual)

Public comments are welcome in writing. Please submit to Emmalee Wagner, emmaleewagner@vt.edu, by 4/7/2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Region 2 Allocations

Updated 3/30/2026

FY26 Per Capita Projects

FY26 Allocation	\$1,506,951.00
FY25 Remaining Balance Transferred to FY26	\$467,240.97
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal	-\$99,999.00
VTTI D2D Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology	-\$99,999.00
Vector Space, Robotics Facility Planning, Lynchburg Region	-\$97,200.00
Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center - Project RISE	-\$648,000.00
Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion in Greater Lynchburg	-\$686,340.00
Project Returns	\$65,722.20
FY26 Remaining Balance	\$408,376.17

FY 26 Capacity Building (Support)

FY26 Allocation	\$250,000.00
FY26 Drawdown	-\$250,000.00
Current Balance	\$0.00

FY26 Statewide Competitive and HBRI Funded Projects

BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 and 3	-\$250,000.00	<i>Statewide Competitive</i>
SBDC Business Preparedness Program NRV	-\$71,166.61	<i>Helene Business Recovery Initiative</i>
NRVRC AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing Regions 2 &3	-\$4,230,160.00	<i>Statewide Competitive</i>

Applications Under Consideration

Sweet Briar College Thermal Systems Engineering Expansion	-\$139,776.96
Total	-\$139,776.96
Per Capita Balance if All Applications Approved	\$268,599.21

FY26 Planning Cap

FY26 Planning Cap	\$250,000.00
<i>Planning projects approved</i>	\$197,199.00
<i>Percentage of planning cap</i>	79%
<i>Planning funds remaining</i>	\$52,801.00

Current Project Details										
Project Name	Funding Type & FY	Start Date	End Date	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Reported to Date	Match Funds Remaining	Notes
Center for Entrepreneurship	Per Capita (FY22)	3/14/2023	3/14/2027	\$240,192.00	\$103,403.97	\$136,788.03	\$187,035.00	\$82,098.69	\$104,936.31	No cost contract extension executed, new end date 3/14/2027
Industry 4.0 for the ACE Workforce	Per Capita (FY23)	3/1/2023	12/31/2025	\$500,000.00	\$267,703.80	\$232,296.20	\$251,300.00	\$266,707.13	\$0.00	Fiscal closeout has been submitted
Lynchburg Beacon of Hope Career Acceleration Program	Per Capita (FY23)	8/1/2023	3/1/2026	\$540,000.00	\$357,466.39	\$182,533.61	\$352,200.00	\$219,069.87	\$133,130.13	
Falling Branch Corporate Park Regional Site Development	Per Capita (FY23)	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	\$324,000.00	\$324,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,810,765.60	\$2,261,022.06	\$549,743.54	
Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact	Per Capita (FY23)	12/1/2023	8/30/2026	\$577,800.00	\$415,841.51	\$161,958.49	\$288,900.00	\$263,449.11	\$25,450.89	
ACA Classical & CTE Academy Welding	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2027	\$565,000.00	\$528,824.14	\$36,175.86	\$318,259.00	\$390,433.87	\$0.00	
Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline (ITCCP)	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	\$202,872.00	\$75,379.69	\$127,492.31	\$116,863.00	\$62,149.18	\$54,713.82	
Randolph College Engineering	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	\$367,000.00	\$226,487.99	\$140,512.01	\$379,784.00	\$324,099.88	\$55,684.12	
Project VITAL	Per Capita (FY24) & Statewide Competitive	1/1/2025	1/1/2028	\$4,987,029.00	\$697,304.72	\$4,289,724.28	\$2,517,443.16	\$351,814.47	\$2,165,628.69	
GOTEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County	Per Capita (FY25)	7/1/2025	7/1/2027	\$994,213.00	\$145,723.39	\$848,489.61	\$518,956.00	\$83,985.15	\$434,970.85	
NRVRC Site Advancement Strategy 2025	Per Capita (FY25)	8/15/2025	8/14/2026	\$94,400.00	\$12,807.44	\$81,592.56	\$108,479.00	\$38,000.00	\$70,479.00	
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal	Per Capita (FY26)	10/1/2025	9/30/2027	\$99,999.00	\$0.00	\$99,999.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	
VTTI D2D Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology	Per Capita (FY26)	11/15/2025	11/14/2026	\$99,999.00	\$0.00	\$99,999.00	\$57,945.00	\$0.00	\$57,945.00	
Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study for LYH	Per Capita (FY26)	11/5/2025	11/4/2026	\$97,200.00	\$0.00	\$97,200.00	\$48,750.00	\$0.00	\$48,750.00	
VTCRC - Project RISE	Per Capita (FY26)	12/9/2025	12/8/2027	\$648,000.00	\$0.00	\$648,000.00	\$633,555.00	\$0.00	\$633,555.00	Contract Executed 3/20/2026
SBDC Business Preparedness Program - New River Valley	HBRI (FY26)	1/12/2026	1/11/2028	\$71,155.61	\$0.00	\$71,155.61	\$36,278.96	\$0.00	\$36,278.96	Contract Executed 3/3/2026
Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion	Per Capita (FY26)			\$686,340.00	\$0.00	\$686,340.00	\$394,249.17	\$0.00	\$394,249.17	Contracting in Process
NRVRC AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing Regions 2 & 3	Statewide Competitive (FY26)			\$4,230,160.00	\$0.00	\$4,230,160.00	\$1,646,208.16	\$0.00	\$1,646,208.16	Contracting in Process

Project Status Summary

Project Type & FY	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Drawn Down	Match Funds Remaining	Admin Fee	Admin Fee Draw Down	Admin Fee Remaining
Per Capita FY18 Projects:	\$1,115,382.03	\$1,086,718.14	\$0.00	\$3,252,380.71	\$2,901,110.76	\$353,216.13			
Per Capita FY19 Projects:	\$1,197,486.00	\$1,058,036.14	\$0.00	\$1,732,722.00	\$1,597,744.44	\$148,098.04			
Per Capita FY20 Projects:	\$1,782,567.00	\$1,622,794.44	\$0.00	\$1,272,290.00	\$1,171,367.18	\$141,145.26	\$27,162.00	\$27,162.00	\$0.00
ERR FY20 Projects:	\$1,110,700.00	\$1,109,141.94	\$0.00	\$566,610.00	\$570,743.57	\$0.00	\$23,598.00	\$23,083.48	\$514.52
Per Capita FY21 Projects:	\$844,157.00	\$794,295.95	\$0.00	\$695,042.00	\$669,979.51	\$25,062.49	\$62,530.00	\$58,836.99	\$3,693.01
Per Capita FY22 Projects:	\$1,442,743.00	\$1,245,161.60	\$197,581.39	\$1,080,813.00	\$1,137,442.88	\$165,678.79	\$105,369.00	\$90,730.39	\$14,638.61
Per Capita FY23 Projects:	\$2,108,467.00	\$1,531,678.70	\$576,788.30	\$3,799,832.37	\$3,105,412.19	\$709,827.31	\$156,182.00	\$113,456.96	\$42,725.04
Per Capita FY24 Projects:	\$1,274,231.00	\$940,499.03	\$333,731.97	\$954,934.40	\$884,509.48	\$142,599.79	\$92,350.19	\$68,461.85	\$23,888.34
TPI FY24 Projects:	\$250,000.00	\$196,940.02	\$53,059.98	\$125,029.00	\$106,346.28	\$18,682.72	\$20,000.00	\$14,588.15	\$5,411.85
Statewide Competitive Projects FY24:	\$4,987,029.00	\$697,304.72	\$4,289,724.28	\$2,517,443.16	\$351,814.47	\$2,165,628.69	\$121,634.85	\$16,612.80	\$105,022.05
Per Capita FY25 Projects:	\$1,238,613.00	\$308,530.83	\$930,082.17	\$677,435.00	\$171,985.15	\$505,449.85	\$70,083.00	\$16,604.19	\$53,478.81
Per Capita FY26 Projects:	\$1,631,538.00	\$0.00	\$1,631,538.00	\$1,184,499.17	\$0.00	\$1,184,499.17	\$120,854.00	\$0.00	\$120,854.00
HBRI FY26 Projects:	\$71,155.61	\$0.00	\$71,155.61	\$36,278.96	\$0.00	\$36,278.96	\$5,270.80	\$0.00	\$5,270.80
Statewide Competitive Projects FY26:	\$4,230,160.00	\$0.00	\$4,230,160.00	\$1,646,208.16	\$0.00	\$1,646,208.16	\$182,160.00	\$0.00	\$182,160.00
TOTAL:	\$23,284,228.64	\$10,591,101.51	\$12,313,821.70	\$19,541,517.93	\$12,668,455.91	\$7,242,375.36	\$987,193.84	\$429,536.81	\$557,657.03

GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

Q1: January - March 2026

Program to Date Metrics

Total Projects Funded	Totals Funds Allocated	Jobs Created/Placed	Allocated
64 (45 Projects Completed)	\$23,774,736	976	\$22,024,894

Stoplight Report Project Status Key

Project completed quarterly milestone(s) and is on track to complete outcomes by contracted end date.
Project did not complete one or more quarterly milestone(s) but has a plan in place to complete outcomes by contracted end date.
Project did not complete one or more quarterly milestone(s) and a plan for completing outcomes by contracted end date is not in place.

Project Status, Details, GOVA Funds	Achieved/Committed Outcomes	Q1 Reporting from Staff
ACA Classical & CTE Institute Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 6/30/24 - 6/30/27* \$565,000	12/54 Student Trained 21/70 Credentials Awarded	0 of 2 milestones met. Installation of 2nd equipment tranche is not complete; <i>expected in a couple weeks.</i> CVCC workforce classes not held this semester; <i>will start in Fall 2026.</i>
Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 \$367,000	0/40 Students Trained 25/40 Internships Created	0 of 1 milestone met. "Facilitate internship placements for half of participating students." <i>Confirmation of student internship placements will not be available until May.</i> Professors trained and all robotic equipment installed. Student training (+certification) will start AY26-27.
Falling Branch Corporate Park Site Development <i>Implementation</i> 7/01/23 - 6/30/26* \$324,000	0/35 Acres Elevated from Tier 4 to Tier 5 on VBRSP Scale 0/1,004 feet of sewer line constructed 2,800/2,800 feet of waterline constructed	0 of 1 milestone met. Final phase of construction has not begun. <i>Bid release delayed by Town review; bid released 3/24/26.</i>
GOTEC Launch in NRV and Roanoke County Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 7/01/25 - 7/01/27 \$994,213	468/1,136 People Trained 1/1 Program Implemented	0 of 1 milestone met. Reporting delays from IALR and some partner school districts have extended the timeline for finalizing quarterly metrics. 100% of the project equipment received and inventoried. The GO TEC program is operational and active across all six designated partner sites.
LRBA Center for Entrepreneurship Startup Ecosystem <i>Implementation</i> 3/14/23 - 3/14/27* \$240,192	8/42 Jobs Created 41/20 Businesses Served \$604K/\$400K Capital Raised	2 of 4 milestones met. 1 - 2 Development events not held. <i>Recruiting now for tech providers/mentors to host.</i> 1- 2 issues of Ventur Magazine not published. <i>Roadblocks to hiring someone willing to publish.</i>
LRBA Say YES to LYH Talent Portal Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 10/01/25 - 9/30/27 \$99,999	0/50 Jobs Created 0/20 New Businesses Served	3 of 4 milestones met. Launch of a working website prototype for internal testing was not completed. <i>Web developer anticipates June delivery.</i>

Project Status, Details, GOVA Funds	Achieved/Committed Outcomes	Q1 Update from Subgrantee
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Cluster Scale Up <i>Statewide Planning</i> 1/01/26 - 12/31/26 \$250,000	Contracted Deliverable: Vision 2050 Playbook	<i>Subgrantee reports to Region 3 in mid-April. Project reports will be delayed by one quarter.</i>
Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 \$202,872	146/104 Credentials Awarded 7/15 Businesses Served	Staff attended Spring Radford University Career Fair to share the IT Talent Connector Program and Spring Summit and the availability of the Certification Center. An employer webinar was held on February 24th to inform employers about the available resources. The Spring Talent Connect Summit is scheduled for April 7th. Recruitment of employers and registration of students in underway.
Lynchburg Career Accelerator Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 7/31/23 - 3/01/26* \$540,000	264/112 Internships Completed 77/44 Certificates Awarded 61/24 Businesses Served Playbook for Opportunity Youth Playbook for Promise Pausers Playbook for 2Gen Populations	All 3 Playbooks completed. Online tool development finalized and project team is onboarding partners to digital platform. Project is working through closeout process.
NRV Regional Commission Sites Advancement Strategy Site Development <i>Planning</i> 8/15/25 - 8/14/26 \$94,400	Contracted Deliverables: 6 Updated Site Inventory Reports 6 One Page Site Reports 1 Roadmap Report 1 Site Selection Investment Report	Contract finalized with project consultant. Meetings held with consultant and participating LEDOs to confirm project expectations, review selected sites, and outline next steps. Site visits conducted across all participating localities, providing on-the-ground context to supplement previously compiled site information.
Project RISE Entrepreneurship & Innovation <i>Implementation</i> 12/09/25 - 12/08/27 \$648,000	0/35 Jobs Created 1/10 New Businesses Created 7/40 Businesses Served 6/40 New Mentors Providing Assistance 0/20 Patents Filed 0/10 Patents Awarded	Construction of the new ERC began this quarter. The first facilitated workshop, Idea lab, was held on January 25th. Program Operations manager was hired in February.
Project VITAL Cluster Scale Up <i>Statewide Implementation</i> 1/01/25 - 1/01/28 \$4,987,029	16/42 Employees Upskilled 21/406 Jobs Created/Filled 49/100 Businesses Served 13/55 Entrepreneurs Engaged 5/15 Mentors Engaged \$18M/\$50M Capital Raised	18 of 20 milestones met. Human Factors Lab (HFL) Manager staffing process nearly complete and requisition process for HFL Specialist will begin next quarter. Partners continued entrepreneur programming, regulatory and capital support, Human Factors Lab development, and expanded commercialization efforts. Workforce and K-12 biotech outreach grew, and Radford launched an Applied Biotechnology program.
SBDC Business Preparedness NRV Helene Business Recovery Initiative <i>Implementation</i> 1/12/26 - 1/11/28 \$71,156	0/1 New Program Implemented 0/50 Businesses Served 0/2 New Mentors Providing Assistance	All start-up milestones for the Helene Business Recovery Initiative completed. The "Ready for Anything" curriculum developed. Outreach and recruitment efforts initiated.
Strengthening Entrepreneurs Impact Start Up Ecosystem <i>Implementation</i> 12/01/23 - 8/30/26* \$577,800	74/70 Jobs Created/Filled 32/35 Existing Businesses Expanded 7/8 New Businesses Created 77/58 Businesses Served 149/58 Entrepreneurs Engaged 69/50 Mentors Engaged	RAMP hosted a Pitch & Polich Clinic, prepared the upcoming ON Ramp cohort, expanded outreach, ran workshops, launched an Exit RAMP cohort, and partnered with VIPC and VVP on funding and entrepreneurship events to support regional startups.
Vector Space Robotics Facility Planning Workforce Development <i>Planning</i> 11/05/25 - 11/04/26 \$97,200	Contracted Deliverable: 1 Feasibility study	Planning Committee hosted first meeting. Site visits to robotics events took place. Developed and distributed stakeholder survey to rural VA teams.

* DHCD awarded no-cost contract extension Additional project information is available upon request. emmaleewagner@vt.edu

VTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology Workforce Development <i>Planning</i> 11/15/25 - 11/14/26 \$99,999	Contracted Deliverable: 1 Strategic plan for implementation	The research team completed the literature and program scan. A concept document, outreach materials, and interview questions were developed for stakeholder interview outreach.
--	--	---

Q1 Closed Project Details	Final Outcomes	Closeout Reporting from Subgrantee
Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> 2/28/23 - 12/31/25* \$500,000	48/35 Businesses Served 140/530 Students Trained	The ACE Workforce project delivered Industry 4.0 training, technology assessments, and student pipeline development while building strong regional partnerships. It raised awareness of Industry 4.0 workforce needs, helped companies begin technology adoption, engaged 99 partners, and developed asynchronous trainings to maintain participation when industry engagement was impacted by shifting federal policies. <i>Project returned \$232,296 to Region 2 available funding.</i>

* DHCD awarded no-cost contract extension Additional project information is available upon request. emmaleewagner@vt.edu

Sweet Briar College Thermal Engineering Program Expansion in Greater Lynchburg



Applicant: Sweet Briar College
Participating Localities: Amherst County (cash), Town of Amherst (cash), Campbell County (cash & in kind)
Targeted Industries: Manufacturing for Transportation, Energy & Autonomy; IT, Engineering Services & Emerging Technology
Investment Strategy: Workforce Development
Type of Project: Implementation

Goal: Support the talent pipeline by training engineers that are highly skilled in the principles, analysis, and operations of thermal systems.

Project Description: Sweet Briar College requests funding to support the expansion of its thermal engineering program to strengthen the talent pipeline with engineers prepared to work in the nuclear, refrigeration, and associated manufacturing industries.

This project will expand an existing thermal fluids course into two sequential courses to offer thorough, high-quality training in fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, and heat transfer. Training students across all these complex skills will result in work-ready talent with hands-on experience in addition to the knowledge required to apply them upon graduation. In addition to expanding this course, Sweet Briar will have renovated lab space and equipment that will allow for real-world application and practice. Students in the program will also participate in a seminar series, capstone projects, and industry tours hosted by regional companies to support talent retention in the region.

Committed Outcomes
3 Job Placements
15 Students Trained
7 Interns Placed

Budget	
GO Virginia Request	\$139,777
<i>Local Match</i>	\$23,000
Total Matching Funds	\$71,530
Additional Leverage	--
Total Project Budget	\$211,307

Funding Details: GO Virginia funds will be used for **contract services** needed for the laboratory renovation, to purchase **equipment** (lab-scale power plant and refrigeration trainer), and **salaries** for a mechanical technician and Sweet Briar faculty for grant administration.

Matching funds are contributed by Amherst County Board of Supervisors, Amherst County Economic Development Authority, Town of Amherst, Campbell County Economic Development Authority, Framatome, BWXT, Aerofin, and Sweet Briar College. Matching funds will be used for the equipment named above, salaries for Sweet Briar faculty for course development & grant administration, contract services for laboratory renovation, and contributions to support the seminar series, job shadowing, industry tours, and service on the project advisory board.

Program Requirements	
\$2:1 Match	Yes
Industry Demand	Yes
Alignment with G&D Plan	Yes
Locality Participation/Match	Yes

Application Review Summary:

This project proposal was reviewed by Amy Sebring, GO Virginia Region 2 Council; Cheryl Valentine, GENEDGE; and Jemma Sabokrouh, GO Virginia Region 2 staff.

Reviewer Feedback:

Economic Impact

- The focus on Virginia-based students and employers supports talent retention in Region 2.
- Lab investments and capstone projects ensure job-ready skills.
- Small cohort size (15 students) may limit impact. What strategies exist to grow enrollment and expand program impact?
- Is there any data on the growth, trends, or number of unfilled positions specifically for engineers with this type of expertise?

Regional Collaboration

- High levels of participation from local government entities.
- Clear and significant support, partnership, and collaboration from academic, industry, local government, and economic development partners through cash, in-kind support and student opportunities.
- The program has been developed with direct input from employers.

Project Readiness

- Applicant demonstrates project readiness with evidence of meetings and coordination with multiple entities and attending local government meetings to share the project.
- Significant cash match contributions speak to project readiness as well as regional support, allowing equipment purchases to begin immediately upon award.
- Applicant demonstrates readiness by providing detailed cost estimates from contractors and manufacturers for the equipment and services needed for the program.

Sustainability

- This program presents a unique opportunity for specialized training in thermal fluids that is not available elsewhere.
- Ongoing resources needed beyond the start-up phase are fairly minimal. Sweet Briar seems prepared to sustain the project once it is off the ground.



GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

Roanoke Higher Education Center

108 N Jefferson St, Room 701A

Roanoke, VA 24016

Executive Committee members in attendance: Paul Denham (Chair), Richmond Vincent (Vice Chair), Whitney Czelusniak, Caley Edgerly, Greg Feldmann (virtual), Justin Yalung.

Staff in attendance: Alyssa McKenney (virtual), John Provo, Barb Reibsamen, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner.

Public attendance: Erin Burcham.

Public virtual attendance: Emma Carroll, Tamara Jamerson, Sherri Lambert, Sarah Lyon Hill, Peter Sheldon, Dana Sliva

The meeting convened at 1:02 p.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

I. Opening

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Public attendees were announced.

II. Council Business

Chair Paul Denham reviewed upcoming council member vacancies; new members will need to be approved by the council in the April meeting.

III. Financial Report

Ms. Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the committee packet.

IV. Program Report

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed updates on approved and closed Region 2 projects. The committee discussed project pipeline development.

V. Quarterly Project Reporting

Ms. Emmalee Wagner reviewed active project statuses, noting one project listed in red and five projects listed in yellow. The eight remaining active projects are listed in green.

VI. Project VITAL Update

Ms. Erin Burcham provided an update on the activities and accomplishments of Project VITAL in Region 2 through Quarter 4. Ms. Leah Thomas, Biotech Education Outreach Specialist at Virginia Western Community College, shared the STEM outreach activities she's conducted to engage with local K-12 students.

VII. Project Proposals

Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion in Greater Lynchburg

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion implementation project application, submitted by Randolph College, requesting \$686,340 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Professor Peter Sheldon represented Randolph College and responded to the committee's questions.

Chair Denham recused himself from the motion. Mr. Justin Yalung motioned to move this project forward for the council's review. Ms. Whitney Czelusniak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



NRV Regional Commission AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing in Regions 2&3

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the statewide competitive implementation project application, submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRV RC), requesting \$6,518,720 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from a Region 2 council member and external reviewers. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Dr. Sarah Lyon Hill and Ms. Emma Carroll represented Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement and NRV RC, respectively, and responded to the committee's questions. Mr. Yalung motioned to move this project forward for the council's review; Ms. Czelusniak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Regional Council Committee Meeting Update

Vice Chair Vincent reviewed recent meetings of the Regional Council Committee (October 22, 2025), the State Board (December 9, 2025), and the Governance and Policy Committee (December 15, 2025). The committee discussed Region 2's general position on notable issues anticipated for consideration at the upcoming Regional Council Committee meeting.

IX. Staff Report

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the summary of feedback from Region 2 Council member check ins. The executive committee discussed how to address common questions or concerns.

X. Closing Business

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on October 15, 2025. Chair Denham asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Mr. Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Vincent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Council Member Feedback Summary

GO Virginia Region 2 staff met with 21 Region 2 Council members between May and November 2025. We asked for feedback on the council member experience, the Region 2 program, and project and strategy priorities for the future. We encouraged members to share ways that staff can improve the program, processes, and the experience of the council. The table below highlights feedback that was provided by multiple members, new ideas, and other input we gathered from these meetings.

Action taken by staff

Action plan by staff

Council action recommended

Council Input	Action
Numerous council members expressed the need for more opportunities to connect and engage with other council members informally	<p style="color: green;">-GOVA Region 2 Council Retreat-April 15, 2026</p> <p style="color: green;">-Optional 1-hour, unstructured connection opportunity has been added to each in person council meeting</p>
At times, council decisions have felt pre-determined by the executive committee	<p style="color: purple;">-Executive Committee may remove their recommendations on projects from the meeting process</p> <p style="color: purple;">-Executive Committee may review their procedures and intent to the full council</p>
Periodic refreshers on GOVA program information including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project requirements, mission, goals • references for project evaluation • an elevator pitch 	<p style="color: green;">- “GOVA Refresh” is included in quarterly council bulletins</p> <p style="color: blue;">- Staff will incorporate program content into council meetings and the annual retreat moving forward</p> <p style="color: green;">-Staff has created a quick reference sheet for project evaluation to be used during council meetings as needed</p>
Clarification needed on when members should recuse themselves from discussion and/or abstain from voting due to conflict of interest	<p style="color: purple;">-The EC may offer guidance during a council meeting or guidance could be added to the Region 2 Bylaws</p>

<p>Hesitation to ask challenging questions or make critical remarks regarding project proposals during meetings due to the applicant being present</p>	<p>Applicants are aware that council discussion and questions are a part of this process and are informed on what to expect by staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Executive Committee may take an opportunity to encourage council members to share their comments and questions during meetings and cast votes according to their assessment of the project’s impact to the region and alignment with the Region 2 G&D Plan as outlined in the GO Virginia Regional Council Guidelines
<p>Interest in learning about the activities and priorities of other GOVA regions</p>	<p>Staff will incorporate data from other GOVA regions into future council meetings/annual retreat</p>
<p>Time for Q&A and discussion on proposals limits council members’ ability to evaluate</p>	<p>Challenge with a 2-hour agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Agendas for EC and council meetings can be structured to have less overlap at the direction of the council. -Separate project review meetings can be held prior to council meetings with optional attendance for all council members. -Some GOVA regions have established project review committees.
<p>More variation in project proposals and new applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff makes consistent outreach efforts to build the project pipeline and are always open to new strategies. -We are always looking for opportunities to reach new audiences to discuss ideas and program opportunities. Please share ideas for staff to explore or email introductions with potential applicants
<p>More follow up on funded projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stories of Impact project is in progress and will be complete in October 2026 - A subgrantee presentation is included in the April council meeting agenda. Will work to invite subgrantees to present to council more frequently.

Staff invite council members to suggest additional actions and provide additional input, feedback and ideas at any time.

Planning Grant Allocation Data

Total Planning Grant Funding with % of \$250,000 Cap Used

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
FY18	\$212,738 85%	\$142,501 57%	\$79,920 32%	\$48,924 20%	\$46,559 19%	\$222,548 89%		\$78,811 32%	\$228,799 92%
FY19	\$178,927 72%	\$211,448 85%	\$187,933 75%	\$196,098 78%	\$248,397 99%	\$121,454 49%	\$173,031 69%	\$120,265 48%	\$71,717 29%
FY20	\$70,000 28%	\$200,000 80%		\$131,231 52%	\$210,544 84%		\$196,361 79%	\$100,000 40%	\$94,668 38%
FY21	\$134,356 54%	\$194,859 78%	\$77,316 31%	\$156,391 63%	\$248,677 99%				
FY22	\$240,000 96%	\$194,283 78%	\$263,457 105%		\$283,233 113%	\$228,916 92%	\$226,618 91%		\$100,000 40%
FY23	\$47,184 19%				\$122,400 49%	\$232,074 93%			\$100,000 40%
FY24	\$182,198 73%	\$109,807 44%	\$20,997 8%	\$87,490 35%	\$32,538 13%	\$92,203 37%	\$262,226 105%	\$226,893 91%	
FY25	\$249,306 100%	\$194,400 78%	\$252,000 101%	\$100,000 40%	\$235,292 94%	\$72,100 29%		\$87,450 35%	\$200,000 80%
FY26		\$197,199 79%	\$92,000 37%	\$100,000 40%	\$100,000 40%	\$280,842 112%	\$249,600 100%		

% of total planning grant funding allocated to sites planning grants	
Region 1	36%
Region 2	18%
Region 3	39%
Region 4	36%
Region 5	13%
Region 6	15%
Region 7	0%
Region 8	42%
Region 9	7%
Average	23%